

Filed for intro on 01/10/2001  
HOUSE BILL 109 By  
Fitzhugh

SENATE BILL 13  
By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, to enact the "Tennessee Right of Access to Government Act of 2001".

WHEREAS, in 1974 the general assembly enacted what is commonly referred to as the "Sunshine Law"; and

WHEREAS, this act made it the policy of this state that the formation of public policy and decisions is public business and shall not be conducted in secret; and

WHEREAS, the court of appeals has stated that the purpose of this act is to promote openness and accountability in government and to protect the public against closed door meetings at every stage of a government body's deliberations; and

WHEREAS, it is time for the general assembly to come into full compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act and to conduct its business at all times in a manner that is open to the public and that permits the public full participation in the legislative process; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Right of Access To Government Act of 2001".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 8-44-109. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article II, Section 12 or Article II, Section 22 of the Tennessee Constitution, or any other applicable provision of law or decision of a court of competent jurisdiction to the contrary, all meetings conducted by the general assembly or by a committee, subcommittee or ad hoc committee of the general assembly shall be subject to the provisions of this part.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.